

REMARKS

General:

Claims 1-14 were pending in this application. Claims 1-6 and 13-14 stand rejected. Claim 7 stands objected to. Claims 8-12 stand allowed. Claims 1, 7, and 13 are amended by this amendment. Claim 4 is canceled. Claims 1-3 and 5-14 are pending in the application after this amendment. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,711,674 (Chu). Chu shows a device comprising an upper portion (lamp socket 2) which is hinged to an adaptor 3, which is hinged to a lower portion (plug holder 4) adapted to engage a socket.

Claim 1 has been combined with original claim 4, and now recites that the rotatable upper portion is adapted to rotate at least 360 degrees about an axis perpendicular to the rotatable upper portion. The examiner asserts that this feature is shown in Chu, citing Figs. 2-6 and col. 1, lines 5-9. The paragraph at col. 1, lines 5-9 reads:

“The present invention relates to a lamp socket and plug assembly, and relates more particularly to such a lamp socket and plug assembly which can be adjusted to fit the direction of the electric socket so as to keep the lamp bulb vertical.”

This does not require 360° of rotation. As is demonstrated in Figs. 11-13, Chu is concerned to insert his device into horizontal, upward-facing receptacles (Fig. 11), and vertical, wall-mounted receptacles with the slots for the plug blades horizontal (Fig. 12) and vertical (Fig. 13). For this, Chu requires only 90° of rotation about each of two axes, as is explained at col. 1, lines 31-52. The device shown in the drawings of Chu provides only 90° of rotation about each axis. Rotation of the adaptor 3 relative to the plug holder 4 is limited by the stop 41 and the ends of the groove 34, as explained at col. 2, line 61. Rotation of the lamp socket 2 relative to the adaptor 3 is limited by the abutment of shoulders shown in Figs. 5 and 6. Because these 90° rotations provide all the adjustment that Chu needs, there is no suggestion in Chu to increase the rotations beyond 90° and, in particular, there is no suggestion in Chu of an upper portion is adapted to rotate at least 360 degrees. It is therefore believed that the

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

present invention, as originally claimed in claim 4 and as now claimed in claim 1, is not only new but also non-obvious over Chu.

Claims 2, 5, and 6 are dependent from claim 1 and, without prejudice to their individual merits, are believed to be allowable over Chu for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 13 was rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,276,813 (Victor). Victor shows a device with a head 18 that is rotatable about the central axis of the device and has a lens 20 mounted obliquely to the axis, so that light is projected in a direction that changes as the head is rotated. There is no suggestion of any adjustment other than this single rotation. The drawings show the housing halves 14 and 16 forming a rigid whole, with only the head 18 rotatable about a single axis. (The small circular formation in the middle of Fig. 2 is not an altitude bearing; it is a section through the light bulb.) The passage cited by the examiner reads:

“Then, through use of the rotatable head 18, the lens is directed at the object or area to be illuminated. Since head 18 may rotate 360 °, illumination of an object or surface can be directed as desired independent of how the light is actually plugged into an electrical socket.”

This does not require rotation in multiple axes. It is consistent with the device actually shown, which can be directed “as desired” only within a single circle.

Claim 13, in contrast, recites a device that “may be rotated at least 360 degrees about at least one axis of rotation and angularly positioned in a plurality of angular positions.” This reasonably implies that the rotation and angular positioning are different motions. However, for the avoidance of doubt claim 13 has been amended to state explicitly that the rotation and the angular positioning are about different axes. Basis for this amendment may be found, for example, in the last five lines of paragraph [0013]. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Victor of a device as now claimed in claim 13, and it is believed that claim 13 is not only new but also non-obvious over Victor.

Claim 14 further recites that the directionally adjustable socket adapter is adapted to be rotated at least 360 degrees about two axes of rotation. Although the examiner asserts that this feature is shown by Victor, that does not appear to be correct, for the reasons

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

discussed above with reference to claim 13. Claim 14 is therefore believed to be *a fortiori* not only new but also non-obvious over Victor, for the same reasons as claim 13.

35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claim 3 was rejected as obvious over Chu in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,030,106 (Johnson). Johnson was cited only as showing the additional features of claim 3 and, without prejudice to its individual merits, claim 3 is believed to be new and non-obvious over the combination of Chu and Johnson for the same reasons as claim 1 is new and non-obvious over Chu alone.

Allowable subject matter:

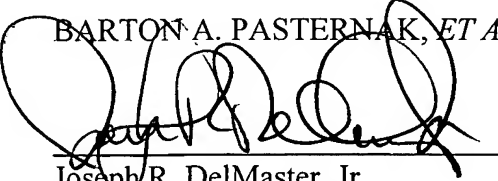
Claim 7 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. It has been so rewritten, and is believed now to be allowable.

The examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 7, and of allowability of claims 8-12, is acknowledged with appreciation.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of claims 1-3 and 5-14 are now in order for allowance. Reconsideration of the examiner's objections and rejections, and an early notice of allowance, are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
BARTON A. PASTERNAK, ET AL.
Joseph R. DelMaster, Jr.
Registration No. 38,123
Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP
One Logan Square
18th and Cherry Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103
202-842-8879
(215) 988-2757 (fax)
Attorney for Applicants